

June 8, 2005

Chief, Policy and Compliance Division

Transmittal # 83 CHAMPVA Policy Manual

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**PUBLICATIONS AND TRANSMITTAL CHANGE**  
**FOR THE CHAMPVA PM (POLICY MANUAL)**

Explanation of the changes and related index updates to the CHAMPVA PM are in the following summary.

**MTOC (Master Table of Contents).**

- Changes policy title of Chapter 2, Section 19.2, *Electrical Stimulation of Bone*, to *Bone Growth Stimulators*.

**Chapter 1, Section 2.3, BENEFICIARY.**

- Under Policy Considerations clarifies that entitlement and eligibility for CHAMPVA benefits are not based solely on the dependent status as determined by the VARO.

**Chapter 1, Section 2.5, CHILD.**

- Under Policy Considerations clarifies criteria to establish full-time student status and that home-school programs are not included as an accredited institution.

**Chapter 2, Section 6.1, DIGESTIVE SYSTEM.**

- Under Exclusions removes radiofrequency ablation of one or more liver tumors, and adds percutaneous interstitial thermal ablation in the treatment of hepatic cancer.

**Chapter 2, Section 16.7, PODIATRY.**

- Under Exclusions adds ESWT (Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy) for the treatment of plantar fasciitis(heel pain), and removes night splints for plantar fasciitis(heel pain).

#### **Chapter 2, Section 19.1, *MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM.***

- Under Exclusions adds ESWT (Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy) for plantar fasciitis and PES (Pulse Electrical Stimulation) systems for osteoarthritis of the knee.

#### **Chapter 2, Section 19.2, *BONE GROWTH STIMULATORS.***

- Changes policy title of Chapter 2, Section 19.2, *Electrical Stimulation of Bone*, to *Bone Growth Stimulators*.
- Under Description adds noninvasive ultrasonic bone growth stimulator device.
- Under Policy adds the use of the PEMF (Pulsed Electromagnetic Field) device, and that ultrasonic bone growth stimulators are covered as medically reasonable and necessary for the treatment of nonunion fractures.
- Adds Policy Considerations and coverage criteria.
- Adds Exclusions and usage of invasive direct and semi-indirect current electrical stimulation for nonunion fractures of the appendicular bones and long bones; use of the capacitive coupling or combined electromagnetic field electrical stimulation noninvasive type of device for the nonunion of fractures of appendicular bones other than long bones; use of ultrasonic bone growth stimulators for the nonunion of fractures of the skull, vertebrae, and those that are tumor-related, and use of ultrasonic bone growth stimulators concurrently with other noninvasive bone growth devices.

#### **Chapter 2, Section 20.1, *NERVOUS SYSTEM.***

- Amends the Procedure Codes.
- Under Exclusions removes magnetocephalography, and adds sacral nerve neurostimulator.

#### **Chapter 2, Section 25.1, *RESPIRATORY SYSTEM.***

- Under Descriptions adds LVRS (Lung Volume Reduction Surgery).
- Under Policy Considerations adds clarification of the criteria for coverage of LVRS.
- Under Exclusions adds LVRS noncoverage indications.

#### **Chapter 2, Section 26.3, *(CT) COMPUTERIZED TOMOGRAPHY.***

- Under Policy Considerations adds EBCT (Electronic Beam Computed Tomography) to diagnose CAD (Coronary Artery Disease), and coverage criteria.
- Under Exclusions adds noncoverage criteria for EBCT to diagnose CAD, and Multislice spiral CT for detection and evaluation of CAD, and Helical CT for assessment of coronary calcification.

## **Chapter 2, Section 35.1, FEMALE GENITAL SYSTEM.**

- Amends the Procedure Codes.
- Under Policy Considerations adds UEA (Uterine Artery Embolization), is covered as an alternative treatment to hysterectomy or myomectomy, for those individuals who are post-fertility and premenopausal with confirmed symptomatic uterine fibroids.
- Adds Exceptions and that intersex surgery is not covered except when performed to correct sex gender confusion/ambiguous genitalia present at birth.
- Under Exclusions adds and clarifies CPT (Current Procedural Terminology) codes for specific excluded policy, and UAE for individuals with specific contraindications as pelvic malignancy and pelvic inflammatory disease, and premenopausal patients considering a future pregnancy.

**Code Index.** Amends index to add and delete codes referenced in this transmittal.

**Subject Index.** Amends index to add and delete changes referenced in this transmittal.

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